

Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01

L-03 EB-11 COME-00 DOTE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-07 AID-20

IGA-02 CPR-02 RSR-01 /150 W
----- 060289

R 291400 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2977
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BATHURST

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 1263

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 1263 VICE 1252)

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, SG, GA
SUBJ: SENEGAMBIAN MINISTERIAL

SUMMARY. 8 TH SESSION OF SENEGAMBIAN INTERSTATE MINISTERIAL
COMMITTEE
CONCLUDED MARCH 21 AFTER 3 DAYS OF MEETINGS IN DAKAR WITH JOINT COM-
MUNIQUE SIGNED BY ANDREW CAMARA FOR THE GAMBIA AND COUMBA N'
DOFFENE
DIOUF FOR SENEGAL. ACCORDING TO ALL SOURCES (WITHIN GOS AND GAMBIAN
HIGH COMMISSION), MEETINGS TOOK PLACE IN VERY CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE.
GAMBIA HIGH COMMISSIONER SARR CALLED THIS SESSION " MOST
PRODUCTIVE"
HE HAS EVER ATTENDED. END SUMMARY.

1. ELEVEN POINTS ON MINISTERIAL AGENDA, AS LISTED IN COMMUNIQUE,
INCLUDE BOUNDARY DEMARCATION (LAND AND MARITIME BOUNDARIES), SENE-
GAMBIA BRIDGE, GAMBIA RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, JUDICIAL
COOPERATION, AND SUCH NON CONTROVERSIAL QUESTIONS AS CULTURAL
COOP-
ERATION, TOURISM, CONTROL OF BRUSH FIRES AND ADMINIS-
TRATIVE MATTERS RELATING TO SENEGAMBIAN SECRETARIAT. NOT LISTED IN
COMMUNIQUE WERE OTHER TOPICS DISCUSSED SUCH AS FRONTIER VIOLATIONS
(INCLUDING SMUGGLING), PRESIDENT JAWARA'S COMING VISIT TO SENEGAL
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(APRIL 25-28), AND MUTUAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.

2. RESULTS OF 8 TH SESSION, JUSTIFYING SAM SARR' S COMMENT ABOVE, INCLUDE INTERESTING TRADE- OFF ON SENEGAMBIA BRIDGE (WHICH SENE- GALESE STRONGLY FAVOR, WHILE GAMBIANS MORE INCLINED FAVOR IMPROVE- MENT OF BATHURST- ZIGUINCHOR ROAD). RECENTLY- COMPLETED FRENCH PRE- LIMINARY REPORT ON SENEGAMBIA BRIDGE IS TO BE TRANSLATED INTO ENG- LISH FOR BENEFIT OF GAMBIANS AND FURTHER NECESSARY STUDY COMPLETED " WITHOUT DELAY". AT SAME TIME, MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE CALLED FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DIRECT BATHURST- ZIGUINCHOR ROAD (PORTION BETWEEN BRIKAMA AND BIGNONA) " AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE". EXPERT REPORTS ON MARITIME AND LAND BOUNDARIES WERE EXAMINED, AND FURTHER STUDIES IN THIS AREA ARE TO BE SUBMITTED TO TWO HEADS OF STATE DURING THEIR APRIL MEETING. A JUDICIAL CONVENTION AND PROTOCOL OF CONSULAR ASSISTANCE WERE SIGNED. ALSO AGREED ON WAS A COMMON POLICY EASING TOURIST TRAVEL BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. (IN BACKGROUND TO AGREEMENT ON EASING TOURIST TRAVEL IS DEFINITE RIVALRY BETWEEN THE GAMBIA AND SENEGAL IN MATTER OF ATTRACTING FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN TOURISM SECTOR.)

3. ONLY MATTER WHICH REMAINED IN DISPUTE, ACCORDING TO SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE, IS DEMARCATION OF SOUTHERN GAMBIA- SENEGAL BOUNDARY NEAR ATLANTIC COAST, WITH CONSEQUENCE THAT AGREEMENT ON OFF SHORE TERRITORIAL LIMITS NOT POSSIBLE UNTIL THIS QUESTION SETTLED. BOUNDARY QUESTION, AS NOTED ABOVE, WILL BE SUBMITTED TO TWO HEADS OF STATE IN APRIL.

4. WHEN ASKED FOR PRECISE DEFINITION OF GAMBIAN POSITION ON SENE- GAMBIA BRIDGE, GAMBIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER SARR STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT " NOT OPPOSED" TO PROJECT, RECOGNIZED IT AS ELEMENT IN TOTAL PATTERN OF TRANSPORTATION NEEDS FOR ENTIRE REGION, BUT WANTED TO HAVE PRELIMINARY STUDIES ON HAND AND IN ENGLISH BEFORE MAKING FINAL COMMITMENT.

5. COPIES OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE BEING POUCHED TO AF/ W AND INR/ RAF/ W.
CLARK

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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